Accounting for Snychronic Irregularities via Diachronic Regularities

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ABSTRACT

There are a number of typological peculiarities that have been identified in recent grammatical descricptions, such as conjunctions and complementizers that behave like verbs (Ameka, 2008; Dryer, 2008), or markers of clause subordination that have the morphology of nouns (König, 2002). In this paper it is argued that many of these crosslinguistically unusual phenomena can accounted for via principles of grammatical evolution.

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